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Application No. 10/615,226  
Election dated May 12, 2004  
Reply to Office Action dated April 28, 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of }  
Applicant: Jeremy Francis Donnan et al. }  
Appl. No.: 10/615,226 }  
Filed: July 8, 2003 }  
Title: HYPODERMIC SYRINGES }  
TC/A.U.: 3742 }  
Examiner: Leonid M. Fastovsky }  
Docket No.: NGP0054-02 }  
(Formerly MNL0007-02) }  
Customer No.: 00832 }

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 12, 2004.

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Name of Registered Representative

Signature

May 12, 2004

Date

ELECTION

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Requirement for Restriction dated April 28, 2004, Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group II, namely, claims 3-44, for prosecution in the instant application.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Requirement for Restriction since Groups I and II are so closely related that they should not be filed in separate applications. As the Examiner pointed out, the difference between the inventions of Groups I and II is that claims of Group II call for a mounting hub for the needle. However, claim 1 does call for a hypodermic syringe. Obviously, a hypodermic syringe would include some type of needle which would have to be mounted on the recited structure in some fashion.

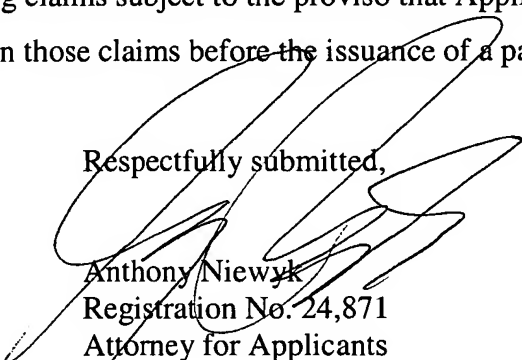
Similarly, in connection with Groups II and III, it is noted that the single claim 45 of Group III calls for a barrel to be used with a retractable needle assembly which comprises a needle and a mounting hub. Again, the barrel, as can be seen from claims in Group II, is a central element of the hypodermic syringe claimed in the claims of Group II. Applicants therefore respectfully traverse the Requirement for Restriction of Groups II and III.

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Applicants also note that upon the allowance of a generic claim, Applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim.

Applicants cancel the remaining claims subject to the proviso that Applicants are entitled to file a divisional patent application on those claims before the issuance of a patent in the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,



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